



# THE LAKE AND PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 5, 2021

Dear Mr. Fowler and Tanalian LSAC,

First and foremost, I would like to apologize for the lack of response to your letter to the LPSD Covid Committee. By now you have most likely seen my letter to LPSD Parents, Communities and Staff on masking requirements in our schools. I would like to say that your voice was heard and we had many discussions as a committee on your request. The conversations were not easy with some seeing your request (and those of others) to be warranted given the current Covid numbers and others concerned about intermingling with Sports and then others stating the CDC recommendations for universal masking.

In the end, it was an e-mail to Dr. Ohlsen at Alaska's Division of Public Health that swayed myself and others to retain universal masking throughout the remainder of the year. From Dr. Ohlsen: *"Our experience in Alaska has reflected what CDC is reporting nationally- that masks in schools make a huge difference in transmission, and that transmission in schools largely takes place when for one reason or another universal masking wasn't practiced."* While different committee members have different points of view, we all agreed in the end that we have to listen to our medical professionals.

I know it is not the answer you want to hear however we do feel that universal masking will help us in offering more opportunities for our students between now and the end of the school year. Hopefully, our prudence at our home sites will allow us to do more for our children and get past this pandemic a bit sooner. I for one am excited about getting back to some normalcy. Thank you for reaching out, hearing from all of our communities helps balance the conversation.

Respectfully,

Ty Mase